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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/399,694 | 09/21/1999 | MARK ANTHONY CESARE | ST9-99-037 | 2556 |

24033 7590 02/19/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/399,694

Applicant(s)

CESARE ET AL.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoover et al. (US 5724575).

Re claims 1, 14, 27, and 40, a Hoover discloses method for performing a clean operation on an input table having an input table name, comprising: receiving at least one rule definition, wherein each rule definition indicates a find criteria, (Col. 51, lines 14-16 and Col. 54, lines 26-33) a replacement value, (Col. 35, lines 21-31), and an input data column in the input table, (Col. 43-64); searching, for each rule definition, the input data column for any fields that match the find criteria, (Col. 46, lines 40-50);

Hoover does not clearly disclose "inserting, for each rule definition, the replacement value in the fields in the input data column that match the find criteria, wherein subsequent applications of additional rule definitions applied to the same input data column operate on replacement values inserted in the input data column in previously applied rule definitions"; however, Hoover shows in figures 19A-19B the columns from left to right, the first two columns represent the new state number (New

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State #) and the old state number (From State #), respectively. The next three columns, SSN Request, SSN DB Image, and SSN Matching, relate to the person's Social Security Number (SSN). The next two columns, Request Name, Last/first-nm Matching, relate to the person's name, (Col. 46, lines 37-51). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the taught for inserting, for each rule definition, the replacement value in the fields in the input data column that match the find criteria, wherein subsequent applications of additional rule definitions applied to the same input data column operate on replacement values inserted in the input data column in previously applied rule definitions because when the search is matched ^{with} the criteria, the system is transforming the data and replacing the data into the match fields.

Re claims 2, 15, and 28, the method of claim 1, wherein each rule definition is associated with one rule table including the find criteria and replacement value, wherein a rule table column parameter for each rule definition indicates the columns in the rule table including the find criteria and replacement value for the rule definition, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claims 3, 16, and 29, the method of claim 1, wherein there is a separate rule table including the find criteria and replacement value associated with at least one rule definition, wherein, for each rule definition, a rule table column parameter indicates the columns in the rule table for the rule definition including the find criteria and replacement

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value for that rule definition, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claims 4, 17, and 30, the method of claim 1, wherein the input data column for a first and second applied rule definitions is the same input data column, wherein the replacement value for the first rule definition is inserted into at least one field in the input data column, and wherein the find criteria of the second rule definition is applied to the replacement value inserted in the input data column, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claims 5, 18, 31, and 44, the method of claim 1, wherein at least one rule definition includes multiple find criteria and a corresponding replacement value for each find criteria, wherein the step of searching the input data column comprises applying each of the multiple find criteria to one field until one of: (i) a match occurs and (ii) none of the multiple find criteria are found to match the field content, and wherein inserting the replacement value comprises inserting the replacement value corresponding to one find criteria that matched the field content, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claims 6, 19, 32, and 45, the method of claim 5, wherein a sort column includes values to use to sort the multiple find criteria and corresponding replacement

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value, wherein the step of searching comprises applying the multiple find criteria to each field in the order specified in the sort column, (Col. 26, lines 7-20).

Re claims 7, 20, 33, and 46, the method of claim 1, wherein the rule definition comprises a type of rule that is a member of the set of rules consisting of: find and replace, discretization, and numeric clip, wherein at least two rule definitions are comprised of different rule types, (Col. 26, lines 7-20).

Re claims 8, 21, and 34, the method of claim 1, wherein the find criteria for at least one rule definition comprises an upper bound and lower bound, wherein searching comprises searching for any fields that have values within the upper and lower bounds, (Col. 50, lines 10-21).

Re claims 9, 12, 22, 25, 35, and 38, the method of claim 8, wherein the at least one rule definition including find criteria having upper and lower bounds includes multiple find criteria and a corresponding replacement value for each find criteria, wherein the step of searching the input data column comprises applying each of the multiple find criteria to one field until one of: (i) a match occurs and (ii) none of the multiple find criteria are found to match the field content, and wherein inserting the replacement value comprises inserting the replacement value corresponding to one find criteria that matched the field content, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claims 10, 23, and 36, the method of claim 8, wherein searching comprises searching for any fields that have values outside of one of the upper and lower bounds, (Col. 11, lines 54-Col. 12, lines 5).

Re claims 11, 24, and 37, the method of claim 1, wherein the find criteria for at least one rule definition comprises an upper bound and lower bound and wherein the replacement value is an upper replacement value and further comprising a lower replacement value, wherein searching comprises searching for any fields that have values within the upper and lower bounds and wherein inserting comprises inserting the upper replacement value if the field has a value greater than the upper bound and inserting the lower replacement value if the field has a value less than the lower bound, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claims 13, 26, and 39, the method of claim 1, wherein the rule definitions include a row clean flag, and wherein at least one rule definition has the row clean flag set, further comprising removing any row including a field matching the search criteria from the input table when the row clean flag is set, (Col. 35, lines 21-31).

Re claim 41, the memory device of claim 40, wherein at least one rule definition further includes: indication of one rule including the find criteria and replacement value

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for the at least two rule definitions, such that the one rule table includes the find criteria and replacement value for the at least two rule definitions, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50); and a rule table column parameter for the at least two rule definitions indicating the columns in the rule table including the find criteria and replacement value for the rule definitions, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claim 42, the memory device of claim 40, wherein at least one rule definition further includes: indication of a separate rule table for each rule definition including the find criteria and replacement value for the at least two rule definitions, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50); and a rule table column parameter indicating the columns in the rule table for the rule definition including the find criteria and replacement value for that rule definition, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Re claim 43, the memory device of claim 40, wherein the input data column for a first and second applied rule definitions is the same input data column, (Col. 35, lines 21-31, Col. 51, lines 14-46, Col. 54, lines 26-33, and col. 53, lines 43-50).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Sandifer (US 5987474) shows computer aided maintenance and repair information system for equipment subject to regulatory compliance.

Geiner et al. (US 5737600) shows method and system for log management in a coupled data processing system.

Israni et al. (US 6308177B1) shows system and method for use and storage of geographic data on physical media.

Goldensher et al. (US 6282540B1) shows method and apparatus for efficient proximity searching.

Fuh et al. (US 6266663B1) shows user-defined search using index exploitation.

Contact Fax Information

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or Faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communication intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5399, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam Nguyen whose telephone number is

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(703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

TV: tv

02/08/2001


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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